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# FIGURE PAINTING

## Seeing Light and Space Through the Human Form

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The academic study drawing and painting from the human figure from life has been one of the cornerstones of the art world for thousands of years. This class will focus on a particular proven methodology of interpreting the figure. Through a series of exercises we will develop your skills as a traditional draftsman and colorist through working from the human. This class will be focused around depicting and interpreting an “accurate” and expressive depiction the figure as it appears in light and space.

This class will be structured in a traditional academic and pedagogical method employing an “ala-prima” painting process. We will explore, in depth, a specific technique and process of representing the human form, and its relationship to light and space through oil paint. You will be introduced to the materials and techniques used in direct descriptive painting. The class will provide you with the methods needed to interpret and translate three-dimensional form through oil paint. This will be accomplished through a series of exercises aimed at developing your drawing and painting skills.

While the in-class paintings will be academic exercises, the out of class projects will allow you the opportunity to explore the individual creative, conceptual, stylistic and expressive possibilities of the human figure. However the objectives for the in-class exercise paintings is not to create Art (with a capital “A”) but to learn a specific methodology to interpret the figure through direct observation using an ala-prima painting technique. While the objective is to create the most “artful” work possible, the conceptual framework will be prescribed by the exercise objectives attempting to as accurately as possible depict:

### ***Achieving a representation of form, color, light, and space though the human form***

#### **The goals of this figure painting class are:**

1. To strengthen your skills as a draftsman and artist.
2. Obtain the means to describe form, space and light relationships through painting.
3. Further develop your principles of visual organization.
4. Exploit the physical properties of the painting medium.
5. Expand your problem solving ability and creativity within a structured environment.

#### **The Objectives of this class are:**

1. To understand and synthesize the linear and planar structure of the figure.
2. Use value and color to achieve interaction of light on planes in space.
3. Describe the effects of illumination.
4. Achieve a dynamic arrangement of forms in space.
5. Explore the traditional expressive properties of the figure through observational painting.
6. Improve your skills as they relate to the craft of ala-prima oil painting

### **CLASS STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS**

#### **1. CLASSROOM ACADEMIC FIGURE PAINTING:**

The majority of the class time will be dedicated to the painting projects derived from observing and interpreting the human figure. Exercise assignments will vary from one call (3 hour) study paintings to 12-hour fully developed staged figure paintings.

#### **2. OUTSIDE OF CLASS FIGURE PAINTINGS:**

Each student will be required to complete two fully developed figure painting projects following the objective and guidelines of the assignment requirements. Each project will consist of pedagogical approach developing a series of sketches and studies resulting in a fully developed personal painting.

### 3. LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS:

A series of presentations and discussions will focus on contemporary and traditional issues related to the figure, attempting to address the connections between the class concepts, your personal work, art history, and the contemporary art world.

### 4. CRITIQUES:

The critique sessions are intended to serve as an open forum for the critical evaluation and discussion of your work. We will always attempt to address both the positive and negative aspects of your work.

- **Informal process critiques:** We will have frequent and regular process critiques that will provide you constructive feedback during the production of your paintings.
- **Formal project critiques:** Each outside project will conclude with a formal critique where each student will have his or her work evaluated and critiqued by the class.

### 5. FIELD TRIPS:

We may occasionally take field trips to the University Gallery and the Harn Museum (schedule permitting).

### 6. JOURNAL / SKETCHBOOK:

Each student will be expected to maintain a journal / sketchbook containing  
- BRING YOUR SKETCHBOOK TO EACH CLASS TO RECORD:

- a. Preliminary sketches drawings, and ideas.
- b. Notes from lectures, discussions, readings, research.
- c. Due dates, expectations.
- d. More drawings, sketches and ideas.

### 7. DEMONSTRATING PROPER STUDIO CITIZENSHIP - You will be expected to:

- a. Maintain the studio equipment as well as the general studio environment respecting the rights and property of UF and your classmates at all times.
- b. Always clean up following each class or working session.
- c. Properly dispose of all used materials and solvents as instructed following SA+AH health and safety policies (NEVER POUR PAINT OR SOLVENTS DOWN THE SINK)
- d. Respect other people's property.
- e. NEVER deface or paint on the walls or floors inside of this class or in the hallway
- f. Come to class prepared, **on time, and ready to work!**

### 8. INDEPENDENT FRIDAY FIGURE DRAWING LAB – 12 Hours total participation

- a. You will be required to dedicate 12 totals hours participating in the SA+AH Friday figure Drawing Lab

## ATTENDANCE:

- You will be expected to attend all scheduled class sessions. Prompt and regular attendance is essential.
- You will be expected to come to class on time, with the materials, supplies and mindset ready to participate and contribute. Coming to class unprepared to work may result in an unexcused absence.
- More than three unexcused absences will result in the loss of one full letter grade in your class participation portion of your final grade.
- It is the students responsibility to communicate and provide proper documentation for any excused absence

## GRADE FACTORS:

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Your final class grade will be based on the following factors:

- **Successfully fulfilling each assignments objective through creativity, quality and ambition.**

### 1. In Class Figure Painting Exercises - 70%

50% Mid-term portfolio - 50% final portfolio

You will be expected to save each exercise in order to turn in a prescribed selection of your in class paintings at a predetermined date at mid-term and at the conclusion of class. You will receive a grade for each portfolio based on how the exercises successfully fulfilled the assignments objectives and goals.

Each painting exercise will be given a weighted grade based on the class time dedicated to the assignment. Your in class paintings will be evaluated on the following factors:

- Accuracy of drawing (shape, line, proportion)
- Properly addressing each color zone
- Depiction of light
- Depiction of space
- Interaction of color
- Resolution of the painting

### 2. Two "Independent" Outside of Class Paintings 20% (10% each)

50% Mid-term Project - 50% Final Project

You will be expected to complete two fully developed creative "independent" figure painting following the objectives and timelines outlined in the project assignment handout.

### 3. Studio Participation Grade – 10%

This includes: A concerted effort to follow the guidelines and objectives of each exercise/project, being fully engaged, coming to class prepared, on time, and ready to work with all the required materials, and supplies needed to fully participate. This also includes participation in 12 total hours of drawing in the Friday Figure Drawing Lab.

You must also demonstrate proper studio practice that involves showing respect for your fellow students, the model, the facility and the instructor.

## GRADING CRITERIA:

The objective for each "in class" painting exercise is to produce a "resolved" painting given the time constraints of each exercise/project. Each work should attempt to address: draftsmanship, composition, representation of light and space, color interaction, individual interpretation and creativity working within the prescribed methodology of the approach to figure painting in this class.

The specific objectives and grading criteria for the two "out of class" paintings will be described in the assignment handouts.

Late projects or portfolios will be graded down one full letter grade (1.0) for each class period that they are late.

Portfolio and Project grades in this course are considered in the following manner:

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| <b>A</b>  | <b>4.0</b>  | <b>Exceptional work</b> , all criteria of the assignment has been surpassed in a distinguished manner and solutions to problems presented exhibit a depth of understanding. In addition, student is engaged in exceptional studio practice, which includes active research, looking up artists recommended, asking relevant questions about other artists' works or ideas, and being thoroughly engaged in the course content. |
| <b>A-</b> | <b>3.67</b> | <b>Well-presented, superior work</b> , all criteria of assignment was surpassed in a distinguished manner (including exceptional studio practice highlighted above). Minimal improvements could be made to the project overall.  |
| <b>B+</b> | <b>3.33</b> | <b>Very good work</b> . All criteria of assignment were surpassed, and studio practice was exceptional.  |
| <b>B</b>  | <b>3.0</b>  | <b>Very good work, above average</b> understanding and clear potential. Most criteria of assignment were surpassed with some improvements to be made. Studio practice during the project was commendable.  |
| <b>B-</b> | <b>2.67</b> | <b>Good work</b> , most criteria of assignment was met. Work showed promise with a few significant improvements to be made. Studio practice was commendable.   |
| <b>C+</b> | <b>2.33</b> | <b>Adequate, above average work</b> , meeting most of the criteria of the assignment. Studio practice could be   |

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|           |             | improved.   |
| <b>C</b>  | <b>2.0</b>  | <b>Adequate, average, work</b> meeting most of the assignment criteria with areas needing significant improvement. Poor studio practice overall.  |
| <b>C-</b> | <b>1.67</b> | <b>Adequate, below average work.</b> Project meets some criteria but falls below the expectations of the assignment, partially as a result of poor studio practice.   |
| <b>D+</b> | <b>1.33</b> | <b>Below average work.</b> Barely meets the criteria, poor or unfinished work, highlighting poor studio practice.   |
| <b>D</b>  | <b>1.0</b>  | <b>Significantly below average work.</b> Barely meets the criteria, extremely poor or unfinished work, highlighting unacceptable studio practice. Work shows limited understanding and/or effort.   |
| <b>D-</b> | <b>0.67</b> | <b>Extremely poor or unfinished work,</b> accompanied by unacceptable studio practice.  |
| <b>F</b>  | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>Failure to meet all criteria of assignment accompanied by unacceptable studio practice.</b> Unresolved work, incomplete and not meeting minimum requirements. Work shows a lack of understanding and/or effort. Quality of project or performance is not acceptable. |

Additional information on UF grading policies can be found at:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>.

## UNIVERSITY AND SA+AH RESOURCES AND POLICIES:

*Students with disabilities requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.*

*“Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.”*

***This course will follow the Universities honesty policy regarding cheating and use of copyrighted material.***

*Full information regarding these policies is available at the following links:*

Academic Honesty: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#honesty>

Honor Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Student Conduct: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

**GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SERVICES:** <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/>

### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

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### UNIVERSITY COUNSELING SERVICES:

352-392-1575 <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>

The UF Counseling Center offers counseling and therapy to help students confront personal, academic, and career concerns.

### STUDENT HEALTHCARE CENTER:

<http://shcc.ufl.edu/>

**FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES CALL 911.**

352-392-1161 for urgent after-hours care.

352-392-1171 for after-hours mental health assistance.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY:**

In an emergency call 911.

University Police Department — <http://police.ufl.edu/> 352-392-1111.

**STUDENT NIGHTTIME AUXILIARY PATROL (SNAP):**

SNAP provides nightly escorts anywhere on campus to persons on request. The service is staffed by students, equipped and supervised by the university police department. Escorts are routed on foot and driven trips. A person requesting an escort may contact SNAP via telephone at 392-SNAP (92-7627). The requester provides their first name, location of pick-up and destination to the dispatcher who determines the best method of meeting the requester's need. A walking or driving escort is dispatched, to their location.

**SA+AH HEALTH & SAFETY PROGRAM - HAZARDOUS WASTE SATELLITE ACCUMULATION:**

Please make yourself familiar with the SA+AH Health and Safety Program at: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety> during the first week of class. Refer especially to the H&S Rules by Area sections pertaining to Drawing and Painting. Each student will be asked to complete a H&S student waiver form (which will be given to you and signed during studio).

**GUIDELINES FOR USE OF CAMPUS FACILITIES AND GROUNDS:**

Please make every effort to maintain the facilities and grounds of the School of Art and Art History, the College of Fine Arts and The University of Florida. Specifically we ask that you follow these guidelines:

1. Do not mark, paint on or deface any interior or exterior of the school or college facilities. Take care to always use protective tarps, drop cloths or masking material when working with paint media or similar materials to protect the floors in public spaces such as hallways and classrooms. That applies also to the sidewalks walls, and grounds.
2. If a special project requires temporary modification to a wall surface or to the grounds you must obtain specific permission from your instructor prior to undertaking the project. The site must be returned to its original condition immediately following the project unless prior written permission has been obtained from the School of Art and Art History.
3. No Art project may interfere with or impede access to, classrooms, hallways or other public spaces.
4. All site-specific art projects must be installed and engineered with the safety of the general public in mind.
5. Grades will not be issued for the project, or the class, until the project has been completely removed, and the site has been restored to its original condition.
6. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action, withholding of grades, the possible lowering of a grade, or failure of the course.

**DRUG-FREE SCHOOL & WORKPLACE AND CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT:**

SA+AH is committed to upholding the policies set forth by the University of Florida in regards to drug and alcohol use and smoking in educational facilities. Possession and use of drugs or alcoholic beverages is not allowed in the classroom or outdoor areas. In addition, The Florida Clean Indoor Air Act of 1992 prohibits smoking in educational facilities. Violation of university policies and applicable laws is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and does not preclude the possibility of criminal charges.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

The course will follow the University's honesty policy found on-line at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/>.

Work should be your own and must be created specifically for this class. In other words "no double dipping" by submitting projects to multiple classes.